

Funding Sources for Social Impact

Third Quarter 2025

Are you a nonprofit, social enterprise, or government agency looking for funding to support impactful projects? Finding the right grants and funding sources can be challenging, but we've done the work for you. This guide highlights several attractive funding opportunities designed to support social impact initiatives, from community development and education to healthcare and sustainability.

These grant and funding sources provide essential financial support for social impact initiatives. By leveraging these resources, organizations can create and sustain meaningful changes that improve lives and communities around the world. Whether you're working on a local or global scale, connecting with these foundations and agencies can help turn your vision into reality.

Deadlines Approaching

Basic Human Needs Emergency Assistance – Round 2

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving supports nonprofits that enhance the lives of residents in Greater Hartford through strategic, equity-focused philanthropy.

- **Funder:** Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- **Focus:** Emergency services and immediate assistance for basic human needs in Greater Hartford.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits serving vulnerable residents in Greater Hartford.
- **Grant Amount:** Varies.
- **Application Opens:** **July 22, 2025**
- **Application Deadline:** **August 26, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Submit applications through the [Hartford Foundation's online system](#).

Spark Good Local Grants

Walmart Foundation's Spark Good Local Grants empower local organizations making a difference in their communities through grassroots projects.

- **Funder:** Walmart Foundation
- **Focus:** Community development, education, health, and hunger relief.
- **Eligibility:** Organizations serving the same area as the Walmart facility from which they request funding.
- **Grant Amount:** \$250 to \$5,000.
- **Application Window:** **August 1 – October 15, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Apply through [Walmart's Spark Good platform](#).

Looking Out Foundation Grants

Founded by musicians Brandi Carlile and Tim Hanseroth, the Looking Out Foundation funds causes and nonprofits working to impact lives through justice, health, and equity.

- **Funder:** Looking Out Foundation
- **Focus:** Disadvantaged youth, public health, women, the environment, the arts, community development, human and civil rights, hunger, and homelessness.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofit organizations addressing the foundation's focus areas.
- **Grant Amount:** \$1,000 to \$5,000.
- **Application Deadline:** **August 1, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Submit applications through the [foundation's website](#).

TFEC Grant Cycle 3

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) strengthens the South Central Pennsylvania region through grantmaking and support to nonprofits and charitable programs.

- **Funder:** The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC)
- **Focus:** Arts & culture, community development, education, environment, health & human services.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits serving communities within TFEC's service area.
- **Application Deadline:** **September 1, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Apply through TFEC's [online grant portal](#).

Connecticut Community Foundation General Grants

Connecticut Community Foundation works to foster community well-being by supporting local nonprofits and initiatives in a 21-town region of Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills.

- **Funder:** Connecticut Community Foundation
- **Focus:** Building equitable opportunity, health and environmental justice, older adults, strengthening nonprofits.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits serving residents in the foundation's 21-town service area.
- **Application Deadline:** **October 15, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Submit applications through the foundation's [GOapply portal](#).

NEA Grants for Arts Program – Cycle 2

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is an independent federal agency that supports arts excellence and innovation across the U.S.

- **Funder:** National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- **Focus:** Public engagement with the arts, arts education, and integration of the arts with health and community well-being.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofit organizations with at least five years of arts programming prior to the application deadline.
- **Grant Amount:** \$10,000 to \$100,000 (1:1 cost-share/match required).
- **Application Deadline:** **July 22, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Submit applications through the [NEA's online portal](#).

Cummings Foundation \$30 Million Grant Program

Cummings Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in New England, gives back to communities in Massachusetts by investing in nonprofits improving lives.

- **Funder:** Cummings Foundation
- **Focus:** Programs that benefit communities in Massachusetts across various sectors.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofit organizations serving Massachusetts communities.
- **Grant Amount:** Up to \$100,000 over three years; select organizations may receive 10-year grants.
- **Letter of Inquiry Deadline:** **September 6, 2025, at 5:00 PM**
- **How to Apply:** Submit a Letter of Inquiry via the [foundation's online portal](#).

Chester County Community Foundation – Fund for ChesCo Capacity Building Grants

The Chester County Community Foundation connects people who care with causes that matter, offering grants and resources to local nonprofits.

- **Funder:** Chester County Community Foundation
- **Focus:** Capacity building for nonprofits in Chester County, Pennsylvania.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofit organizations serving Chester County.
- **Grant Amount:** Varies.
- **Application Window:** **July 1 – September 11, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Submit applications via email to grants@chescof.org.

American Heart Association Institutional Award for Undergraduate Student Training

The American Heart Association funds groundbreaking research and training programs to advance cardiovascular health and reduce related diseases.

- **Funder:** American Heart Association (AHA)
- **Focus:** Providing meaningful research experiences to undergraduate students to encourage careers in cardiovascular and cerebrovascular research.
- **Eligibility:** Qualified institutions offering research opportunities in line with AHA's mission.
- **Grant Amount:** Varies.
- **Proposal Deadline:** **September 10, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Submit proposals through the [AHA's online application system](#).

CUNO Foundation – Q3 2025 Grant Cycle

The CUNO Foundation provides philanthropic support for organizations that improve quality of life in Meriden, Connecticut.

- **Funder:** CUNO Foundation
- **Focus:** Supporting nonprofit organizations in Meriden, Connecticut, across various sectors.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofit organizations serving the Meriden community.
- **Application Deadline:** **September 15, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Submit applications through the [foundation's website](#).

Other Top Funding Sources

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is among the largest private foundations globally. It offers grants in various areas, including education, health, and poverty alleviation. Their Global Health Division, for instance, supports initiatives aimed at reducing health inequities by developing new tools and strategies.

- **Funding Focus:** Global health, poverty reduction, and education
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and academic institutions
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies by initiative
- **How to Apply:** Explore funding opportunities at [Gates Foundation](#).

Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation focuses on social justice and human welfare. They provide funding across a range of areas such as economic fairness, education, gender, racial justice, and civic engagement. Their grant programs are designed to address systemic inequality and promote human dignity.

- **Funding Focus:** Social justice, human rights, and economic equity
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and social enterprises
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies based on project
- **How to Apply:** Visit [Ford Foundation](#) and submit a letter of inquiry.

Rockefeller Foundation

The Rockefeller Foundation has a long history of philanthropic work. They offer grants to innovative projects that contribute to sustainable development, health, food security, and resilience to climate change. Their goal is to promote the well-being of humanity worldwide.

- **Funding Focus:** Economic opportunity, health, food security, climate resilience
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and research institutions
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies
- **How to Apply:** Check their funding opportunities at [Rockefeller Foundation](#).

Open Society Foundations

Founded by George Soros, Open Society Foundations support a wide array of initiatives aimed at fostering open societies. They fund projects that promote human rights, economic enhancement, and democratic governance. They operate in more than 120 countries around the world.

- **Funding Focus:** Democracy, human rights, justice, and education
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and social movements
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies
- **How to Apply:** Explore funding at [Open Society Foundations](#).

The Skoll Foundation

The Skoll Foundation invests in social entrepreneurs and their innovative approaches to solving critical social issues. They provide funding through the Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship, supporting leaders whose work has the potential for large-scale impact.

- **Funding Focus:** Social entrepreneurship and large-scale change
- **Eligibility:** Social entrepreneurs and organizations
- **Grant Amounts:** Typically between \$1 million and \$5 million
- **How to Apply:** Learn more at [Skoll Foundation](#).

Kresge Foundation

The Kresge Foundation is a private, national foundation that works to expand equity and opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services and community development. They help create pathways for people with low incomes to improve their life circumstances and join the economic mainstream.

- **Funding Focus:** Health, education, and economic development
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits with measurable impact goals
- **Grant Amounts:** Typically up to \$1 million
- **How to Apply:** Visit [Kresge Foundation](#) for application guidelines.

MacArthur Foundation

The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. Their grantmaking includes areas like climate solutions, criminal justice reform, and nuclear challenges.

- **Funding Focus:** Large-scale solutions to critical social problems
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and collaborations
- **Grant Amounts:** Up to \$100 million
- **How to Apply:** Applications open periodically on [MacArthur Foundation](#).

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations that work on improving the lives of children, families, and communities. They focus on conservation, health, and population, seeking initiatives that create a lasting impact on society and the environment.

- **Funding Focus:** Conservation, children's health, and reproductive rights
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and research organizations
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies
- **How to Apply:** Visit [Packard Foundation](#) for details.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is dedicated to improving the well-being of American children and families. They fund programs that help children succeed academically, support economic opportunity, and strengthen families. Their work is aimed at creating brighter futures for all children.

- **Funding Focus:** Child welfare, juvenile justice, and economic opportunity
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and community programs
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies
- **How to Apply:** Visit [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) for funding opportunities.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the largest philanthropy in the United States dedicated solely to health. They provide grants focused on improving health and healthcare for everyone. Their initiatives address pressing health issues, including health equity, healthcare innovation, and public health systems.

- **Funding Focus:** Public health, health equity, and healthcare innovation
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits, community organizations, and researchers
- **Grant Amounts:** Typically between \$50,000 and \$500,000
- **How to Apply:** Visit [RWJF](#) to browse open calls for proposals.

Echoing Green Fellowship and Seed Funding

Echoing Green discovers emerging social entrepreneurs and invests deeply in the growth of their idea and leadership. For over 35 years, they've built a broad, dynamic ecosystem to support these leaders as they solve the world's biggest problems.

- **Funding Focus:** Early-stage social enterprises
- **Eligibility:** Individuals and startups tackling social issues
- **Grant Amounts:** Up to \$90,000 in stipends and funding
- **How to Apply:** Learn more at [Echoing Green](#).

Google.org Impact Challenge

Google.org is a program that uses Google's vast resources to support underserved communities. They do this by providing funding, technical expertise, and innovation.

- **Funding Focus:** Technology-driven social impact solutions
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and social enterprises
- **Grant Amounts:** Typically, between \$250,000 and \$1 million
- **How to Apply:** Submit proposals when applications open at [Google.org](https://www.google.org/impactchallenge).

HUD Community Development Block Grants

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income people.

- **Funding Focus:** Affordable housing, job creation, infrastructure development
- **Eligibility:** Local governments, nonprofits
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies based on community needs
- **How to Apply:** Find opportunities at [HUD CDBG](https://www.hud.gov/cdbg).

U.S. EDA Grants

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and the building of durable regional economies throughout the United States. This foundation builds upon two key economic drivers - innovation and regional collaboration.

- **Funding Focus:** Economic development, innovation, and job creation
- **Eligibility:** State and local governments, nonprofits, educational institutions
- **Grant Amounts:** Typically, between \$100,000 and \$3 million
- **How to Apply:** Visit [EDA.gov](https://www.eda.gov) for open solicitations.

Next Steps: Get the Funding You Need

Securing funding for your social impact initiative starts with finding the right opportunities and crafting a compelling grant application. At [Spera Connect](#), we help organizations like yours identify funding sources, structure proposals, and maximize impact.

- ◆ **Want More Resources?** Subscribe to our newsletter for the latest funding opportunities and social impact insights.
- ◆ **Struggling to convey your nonprofit's impact to funders?** Spera Connect's Custom Impact Report transforms your program data into a compelling, funder-ready narrative. For a low price, you'll receive a professionally designed slide deck featuring a clear program overview, performance benchmarks, tailored funding opportunities, and a strategic roadmap for sustainable growth.

This comprehensive report not only showcases your achievements but also positions your organization for future success. Let Spera Connect handle the heavy lifting, so you can focus on driving meaningful change.

 **Start by filling out this [no-obligation survey](#) and see what we can do for you.**